The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (IDB.24/21; IDB.24/CRP.8)

1. **Ms. ORLOWSKI** (Secretary of the Board) said that document IDB.24/21 contained background information on the preparatory and organizational aspects of the ninth session of the General Conference, to be held in Vienna from 3 to 7 December 2001. It also contained a draft provisional agenda for the Conference, to be adopted by the Board at its present session in its capacity as the preparatory body for the General Conference. The Board should also take note of the proposal to hold, as at the previous General Conference session, an industrial development forum enabling Member States to express their views on a topic to be announced at a later date. The suggested decision on the item, contained in paragraph 12 of document IDB.24/21, could be examined in informal consultations.

2. **Mr. KORNEEV** (Russian Federation) said that the industrial development forum held at the previous General Conference session had been attended by organizational difficulties for some delegations. In preparing for the forthcoming forum, the Secretariat should bear in mind that not all the guests invited to attend would be members of national delegations.

3. **Mr. BERG** (Sweden), noting that the appointment of the Director-General appeared as item 18 of a twenty-item draft provisional agenda for the General Conference, asked why that item would be taken up at such a late stage in the proceedings.

4. **Ms. ORLOWSKI** (Secretary of the Board) said that the Secretariat had taken due note of the suggestion made by the representative of the Russian Federation. As to the order of the agenda items, their numerical order did not necessarily reflect the order in which they would be taken up at the General Conference.

5. **The PRESIDENT** said that the decisions to be taken would be the subject of informal consultations.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DATE OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

6. **The PRESIDENT** suggested that the Board refer the item to informal consultations to be held for the purpose of considering adoption of a draft decision.

7. *It was so agreed.*

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.